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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,852	01/21/2004	Gerald Alexander Pauley	132658	3067
7590 09/28/2005			EXAMINER	
John S. Beulick Armstrong Teasdale LLP Suite 2600 One Metropolitan Square St. Louis, MO 63102			CASAREGOLA, LOUIS J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3746	
DATE MAILED: 09/28/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,852

Applicant(s)

PAULEY ET AL.

Examiner

Louis J. Casaregola

Art Unit

3746

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Reasons For Allowance</u> . |

Restriction Requirement

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 USC 121:

- I. Claims 1-5 drawn to a method of assembling a gas turbine fan platform classified in Class 29, subclass 889, and
- II. Claims 6-20 drawn to a gas turbine fan platform classified in Class 416, subclass 193.A.

The inventions of Groups I and II above are distinct because the apparatus of Group II could be made by a method materially different than that of Group I. The cladding in the claimed apparatus, for example, does not necessarily have to be bonded to the specific area vulnerable to damage as specified to in the claimed method; the cladding could cover this area while being bonded or attached at other points on the fan platform.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and require separate classification and/or divergent fields of search, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

On 9/21/05, applicants' attorney, Mr. Robert Reeser, made a telephone election (with traverse) of Group II, apparatus claims 6-20. An action on the merits of these claims is set forth below, and non-elected claims 1-5 are withdrawn from further consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Pursuant to a complete action on the merits, claims 6-20 have been determined to be allowable. The present application will be allowed upon cancellation of the non-elected claims.

Reasons For Allowance

The invention in this case is a gas turbine fan platform having a flow path surface to which is bonded a layer of cladding metal intended to serve as an impact barrier. Fan platforms with impact barrier layers are known in the prior art as shown, for example, by Ravenhall et al (PTO-1449); see layer 43 in Figure 4 along with column 4, lines 48-51. This layer however is glass fiber and not metal. Turbomachine rotor elements having metal outer layers are likewise known in the art as demonstrated by Freeman et al and Littleford (PTO-892); see element 14 in Figure 3 of Freeman, and element 16 in Figure 2 along with column 2, lines 42-46 of Littleford. Neither of these metal layers however is applied to a fan platform. Freeman's metal layer is applied to a turbine bucket, and Littleford's metal layer is applied to a fan sleeve or intermediate shroud member. Furthermore, neither of these layers appears to be specifically intended as an impact barrier such that it would serve as an obvious substitute for Ravenhall's layer 43.

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Moreover, none of the cited references disclose or fairly suggest a fan platform having a flow path surface to which is bonded a layer of cladding metal as specified in the present claims. The claimed invention is therefore considered patentable over the prior art.

L. J. Casaregola
571-272-4826 (M-F; 7:30-4:00)
571-273-8300 FAX
September 22, 2005



LOUIS J. CASAREGOLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the art unit supervisor, Timothy Thorpe, can be reached at 571-272-4444.

Information regarding the status of this application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR, and status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).